

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-01 FEA-01 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01
OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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O R 100035Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
SECDEF
CINCUSNAVEUR PASS POLAD
COMSIXTHFLT
EUCOM PASS POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH PASS CINCSOUTH FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080407

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, LY, IT, TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN SHELF DISPUTE: DISCUSSIONS WITH
FRENCH AND ITALIANS

REF: A) STATE 73662, B) TUNIS 2471, C) TUNIS 2231, D)
STATE 79051, E) STATE 72492, F) ROME 5475, G) LONDON 5518

1. PER REF A, WE PROMISED TUNISIANS THAT WE WOULD EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH FRANCE AND ITALY ON TUNISIAN-LIBYAN SHELF CONFRONTATION. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CONFIRMATION IN REF B THAT ITALIAN RIG SCARABEO REMAINS AT DISPUTED SITE UNDER LIBYAN CONTRACT, AND ON ASSUMPTION TUNISIANS WILL FOR THE TIME BEING REFRAIN FROM SENDING NORWEGIAN DRILLING RIG INTO DISPUTED ZONE (REF C AND D), YOU SHOULD CONTACT FONOFFS ASAP AND REVIEW SITUATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDANCE BELOW. REPORTS ON YOUR CONTACTS SHOULD BE SENT INFO EMBASSY TUNIS, IF POSSIBLE PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF UNDER SECRETARY HABIB IN TUNIS AT 1235 ON APRIL 12.

2. YOU SHOULD INFORM FONOFF THAT U.S. IS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE THREAT TO THE PEACE AS A RESULT OF RECENT LIBYAN STATEMENTS RE DISPUTED SHELF AREA BETWEEN LIBYA AND TUNISIA. YOU SHOULD STATE THAT WE ARE FOLLOWING STANDARD POLICY OF

NOT TAKING A POSITION ON LEGAL MERITS OF A DISPUTE TO WHICH WE ARE NOT PARTIES AND ADVISING AMERICAN DRILLERS TO STAY OUT OF DISPUTED WATERS, BUT WE ARE WILLING TO ASSOCIATE OURSELVES WITH TUNISIA'S EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE MATTER FROM BEING SETTLED BY FORCE. YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT TUNISIANS HAVE BEEN EAGER TO DRILL AN EXPLORATORY WELL IN DISPUTED ZONE FOR OVER A YEAR, BUT ARE CONTINUING TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND AVOID PROVOKING LIBYANS. LIBYANS, IN CONTRAST, HAVE EXERCISED NO SUCH RESTRAINT. IN ADDITION, WE NOTE FOLLOWING ACTIONS BY LIBYANS, WHICH ARE NOT CONSISTENT WITH PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, NOR WITH AUGUST 1976 BILATERAL AGREE-CONFIDENTIAL

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MENT TO SUBMIT MATTER TO ICJ:

-- REJECTION BY LIBYAN CHARGE IN TUNIS ON FEBRUARY 14 OF INITIAL TUNISIAN NOTE PROTESTING LOCATION OF RIG;

-- AFTER TUNISIAN PATROL CRAFT DELIVERED SUMMONS TO RIG CAPTAIN, THREAT BY LIBYAN PM JALLUD ON FEBRUARY 17 TO OPEN FIRE IF THERE WERE FURTHER TUNISIAN INTERFERENCE;

-- QADHAFI'S LATE MARCH REJECTION OF FM CHATTY'S OFFER TO SEEK OTHER FORMS OF ARBITRATION, AND STATEMENT THAT LIBYA WOULD BE FOUND STRONGER IF TUNISIA RESORTED TO SELF-DEFENCE;

-- ORDER FROM QADHAFI TO FRENCH OIL CO., ANY TOTAL TO CEASE OPERATIONS IN TUNISIA'S FIELD, OVER WHICH LIBYA HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN KNOWN TO ASSERT ANY CLAIM.

-- ALLEGED THREATS BY LIBYANS TO ACT AGAINST ITALIAN AND

POSSIBLY FRENCH INTERESTS IN COUNTRY.

3. YOU SHOULD INFORM FONOFF THAT IN LIGHT OF ABOVE WE HAVE TOLD TUNISIANS THAT SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO GO TO SC, WE WILL SUPPORT INSCRIPTION, STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THEM, AND BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE. YOU MAY DRAW REF E FOR FURTHER DETAILS, IF NECESSARY.

4. FOR ROME: WE CAN UNDERSTAND GOI RATIONALE FOR STAYING OUT OF QUARREL AND LEAVING IT TO STATE OIL SUBSIDIARY TO WORK IT OUT (REF F), AND WE DO NOT WISH TO EMBARRASS GOI BY FORCING IT TO CHOOSE SIDES IN DISPUTE. WE TOO HAVE MAJOR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN LIBYA, WHICH COULD BE SUBJECT TO ARBITRARY ACTION BY QADHAFI. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT OUR ONLY INTENT IS TO HELP TUNISIANS GET ISSUE BACK ON TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TRACK, AND WE WOULD WELCOME ANY ITALIAN SUGGESTIONS IN THIS REGARD.
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5. FOR LONDON: PER REF G, YOU MAY DRAW ON ABOVE AND REFTELS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH FONOFF.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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To: ROME PARIS MULTIPLE
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